

# MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



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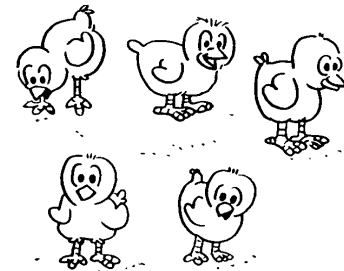
## CHICKENS & EGGS

**Maryland** laying flocks produced 66 million eggs during February 2004, of which 65 million were table eggs and 1 million were hatching eggs. The average rate of lay was 75.7 percent. The average number of layers on hand during February 2004 was 3,007,000. On March 1, 2004 9.5 percent of the layers in Maryland were being molted and 26.5 percent of all layers had been through a molt.

**United States** egg production totaled 6.89 billion during February 2004, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 5.89 billion table eggs, and 1.00 billion hatching eggs, of which 948 million were broiler-type and 54.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2004 averaged 339 million, down slightly from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,033 eggs, up 4 percent from February 2003.

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### Eggs and Layers: February 2003 and 2004

Item	2003	2004	2004/2003
<b>Eggs Produced During February</b>	<i>.....Million.....</i>		<i>Percent</i>
U.S.	6,665	6,891	103
Maryland	68	66	97
<b>Layers, Average Number During February</b>	<i>.....Thousand.....</i>		
U.S.	340,575	338,948	100
Maryland	3,041	3,007	99
<b>Eggs/100 Layers During February</b>	<i>.....Number.....</i>		
U.S.	1,957	2,033	104
Maryland	2,086	2,129	102

## FARM LABOR

There were 847,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 2004, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 667,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.41 per hour during the January 2004 reference week,

up 7 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.39 per hour, up 9 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.84 per hour compared with \$8.90 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.55 per hour, was up 5 cents from last year.

### FARM LABOR: EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE RATES, UNITED STATES, JANUARY 11-17 2004, WITH COMPARISON <sup>1</sup>

FARM EMPLOYMENT	JANUARY 12-18 2003	OCTOBER 12-18, 2003	JANUARY 11-17 2004
<i>THOUSAND</i>			
<i>Hired Workers</i>			
Expected to be Employed	729	891	667
150 Days or More	614	626	554
149 Days or Less	115	265	113
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	160	306	180
<i>Hired Farm &amp; Service Workers</i>	889	1,197	847
<i>HOURS PER WEEK</i>			
<i>Hours Worked Hired</i>	37.7	40.2	38.1
<i>DOLLARS PER HOUR</i>			
<i>Wage Rates for All Hired Workers</i> <sup>2,3</sup>	9.34	9.05	9.41
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	8.50	8.47	8.55
Field	8.30	8.42	8.39
Livestock	8.90	8.64	8.84

<sup>1</sup> Excludes AK.

<sup>2</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

## Agricultural Prices

Prices received for crops in March were mixed. Small grain prices declined with wheat price down eight cents from February, and barley down 26 cents to a price of \$1.87 per bushel. Row crop prices increased with soybeans up \$1.69 per bushel from last month's price of \$7.94. Corn was up 25 cents from February.

Cattle prices were up with calf prices increasing to \$100.60 per cwt, and beef cattle were up to \$81.90 cwt. Hog prices decreased to \$35.20 per cwt, down \$5.90 per cwt. from February.

Commodity	Unit	Maryland and Delaware			United States			Parity Price
		MAR 2003	FEB 2004	MAR 2004	MAR 2003	FEB 2004	MAR 2004 <sup>1</sup>	
Dollars								
Wheat, Winter	BU	2.84	3.65	3.57	3.30	3.68	3.61	9.84
Corn	BU	2.83	3.04	3.29	2.33	2.61	2.79	6.61
Barley	BU	2.20	2.13	1.87	2.83	2.72	2.71	6.56
Soybeans	BU	5.77	7.94	9.63	5.59	8.28	9.56	15.60
All Hay, Baled	TON	168.22	133.00	117.00	92.80	79.90	81.80	-----
All Beef Cattle	CWT	71.80	76.70	81.90	72.60	78.50	84.00	167.00
Calves	CWT	78.40	92.50	100.60	96.70	111.00	114.00	223.00
Hogs	CWT	32.50	41.10	35.20	34.70	42.60	45.10	103.00
Chickens 2/	LB	0.080	0.087	0.089	-----	-----	-----	-----
Broilers	LB	0.330	0.367	0.351	0.330	0.470	0.470	-----
Turkeys, Live	LB	-----	-----	-----	0.351	0.350	0.366	1.000
Eggs, Market	DOZ	0.535	0.897	1.000	0.518	0.745	1.000	1.66

<sup>1</sup> Mid-Month Forecast, Entire Month Price.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include broilers

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED			
INDEX AND RATIOS	UNITED STATES 1990 - 92 =100		
	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004
All Farm Products	99	*116	122
All Crops	106	*120	124
Feed Grain & Hay	106	*113	119
Oil- Bearing Crops	101	*147	169
Fruits & Nuts	87	*95	100
All Livestock and Livestock Products	93	*112	120
Meat Animals	93	104	111
Dairy Products	84	*104	113
Poultry and Eggs	103	139	147
Ratio 1/	77	89	93
Prices Paid Index	128	130	131

\* Revised

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

# MARYLAND CASH RENTS

<i>Maryland Cropland Cash Rents by County</i>					
<i>County</i>	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<i>Dollars Per Acre</i>					
Allegany	37.28	39.22	36.26	32.34	28.00
Anne Arundel	47.51	48.71	47.41	42.58	52.50
Baltimore	56.35	60.88	64.47	61.87	60.28
Calvert	37.41	42.61	43.53	39.78	26.40
Caroline	62.48	61.00	62.23	65.64	74.66
Carroll	58.11	59.66	59.05	57.68	63.04
Cecil	55.34	53.78	60.58	68.28	61.74
Charles	33.79	31.03	35.57	39.61	30.95
Dorchester	77.29	73.05	73.58	67.50	62.72
Frederick	48.84	51.14	53.03	59.97	50.57
Garrett	30.53	26.13	29.92	26.94	31.97
Harford	59.74	63.73	68.04	75.21	74.50
Howard	51.81	54.60	51.67	50.58	49.52
Kent	72.59	75.49	79.49	82.16	85.33
Montgomery	49.20	44.45	45.69	47.71	50.94
Prince George's	31.81	34.13	35.88	39.26	33.82
Queen Anne's	78.53	72.46	74.65	73.39	83.40
St. Mary's	28.11	28.22	30.69	34.08	30.00
Somerset	66.29	60.88	62.18	66.85	61.46
Talbot	87.10	86.46	78.32	69.77	78.40
Washington	52.34	52.35	55.13	55.57	54.77
Wicomico	58.28	59.66	58.65	53.91	58.56
Worcester	65.98	66.97	70.54	65.84	73.08
State Average	54.20	54.20	55.50	55.50	55.50

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